Scrapping of SEZs in Goa

†1248. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Goa State Government has recommended to the Central Government to scrap all the notified Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the State following agitation against setting up of SEZs which is detrimental to the overall interests of the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A communication has been received from the Government of Goa withdrawing the recommendations granted by them for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Goa, including the three notified Zones. The matter is under consideration in the Ministry in consultation with the State Government of Goa and the Ministry of Law.

Cancellation of proposed SEZs in Goa

†1249. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 15 number of proposed SEZs in Goa, have been cancelled by the State Government;

(b) if so, whether the Centre has cancelled proposed SEZs on the request of State Government of Goa;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for non-cancellation of proposed SEZs in Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) A communication has been received from the Government of Goa withdrawing the recommendations granted by them for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Goa, including the three notified Zones. The matter is under consideration in the Ministry in Consultation with the State Government of Goa and the Ministry of Law.

Threat to Kutch salt industry due to pollution

1250. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that salt industry of Kutch is under threat due to pollution emanating industries;

(b) if so, whether Government is formulating any action plan to protect the salt industry; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Out of 81,000 acres allotted for salt manufacture in the Kutch district, about 10,000 acres is affected due to steel and coke plants located in the area.

(b) and (c) The Salt Department has taken up the issue with the Gujarat Pollution Control Board, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar to discuss the matter for purposive initiatives.

Decline in growth rate of infrastructural industrial areas

†1251. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the declining growth rate of infrastructural industrial areas during the year 2007-08; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of industries in which the decline has been recorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUAMR): (a) and (b) The growth of six core infrastructure industries (Crude Oil, Petroleum Refinery Products, Coal, Electricity, Cement and Finished Steel) was 5.7% during April - December, 2007-08 as against 8.9% in the corresponding period of previous year. All core infrastructure industries, except coal, recorded lower growths during April-December, 2007-08 as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Main reasons for the decline are transportation, local disturbances in some production regions, heavy rainfall and land acquisition and forest clearances for coal, capacity constraints for cement and power sector etc.

SEZs approved for Maharashtra, M.P. and Chhattisgarh

†1252. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Economic Zones approved for Maharashtra, M.P. and hattisgarh as on 1st February, 2008;

(b) the names of Industrial House or Industrial groups under whose ownership maximum number of SEZs will be;

(c) the Zone-wise details of agricultural land and Government barren land under each Special Economic Zone; and

(d) the details of current status of each Special Economic Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Under the Special

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi